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News Release

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All Corps projects in VA, NC ready to handle heavy rainfall

WILMINGTON, North Carolina—All five Wilmington District flood control projects have full flood storage capacity, said Terry Brown, Water Control Manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District. "Our lakes will all have their full flood storage capacity if we should need it to accommodate heavy rains resulting from Hurricane Debby," Brown said.

Although Debby, the fourth named tropical storm of the 2000 season is not yet slated to be headed into the Carolinas, Wilmington District emergency personnel are alert to the situation, and carefully monitoring the storm's progress through the Caribbean.

"Our flood control facilities include the following: W. Kerr Scott Lake in western North Carolina is about two feet below normal. Philpott Lake in Virginia is about five feet below the normal operating level. Both B. Everett Jordan Lake and Falls Lake in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina are very close to normal levels and have their full flood storage capacity available. John H. Kerr Lake, straddling the North Carolina – Virginia line, is currently about eight tenths of a foot above its normal level but is expected to be near normal by this coming weekend before any rains from the tropical system could arrive. "We are in excellent shape to meet the challenge of a tropical storm now," Brown said. "The lakes are where we need them to be in order to offer both maximum flood storage protection and to meet the water quality and water supply purposes if the storms do not arrive. River systems in the area are NOT in flood. We just want the public to know that we are aware of and constantly monitoring weather systems that may travel northward and affect our area.

The public is invited to visit the Wilmington District web site to monitor the status of all District flood control projects and river basin conditions on the Dan, Roanoke, Yadkin, Neuse, and Cape Fear Rivers. Real-time reservoir, river stage and river flow information is available on the web site and also includes historical data. Go to the web site at http://epec.saw.usace.army.mil/ or call (910) 251-4626 for further information.